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Gratuity Fund Monthly Fund Performance

August 2019 Edition

From the CIO's desk





Month gone by - A snapshot

Indian equity market outperformed emerging markets during the month of August on the back of various measures announced by the government. Developed and emerging markets were down 2% and 5% respectively whereas MSCI India was down 3%. Some profit booking was seen in the bond market following the buoyancy seen in July. The G-Sec yield rose by 20bps this month, despite an unconventional 35bps policy rate cut by RBI MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) and a higher than

expected reserve transfer by RBI to the government. INR depreciated against USD, in-line with Yuan and other EM currencies, given the uncertainties around global trade wars.

Macroeconomic update

The real GDP growth for June quarter was 5% yoy, weaker than the consensus expectation of 5.8%. The nominal GDP growth was at a multi-year low level of about 8%. A key reason for this was slowdown in the manufacturing sector which grew at just 0.6% yoy. However, services sector was relatively strong at 7% yoy growth. Monsoon's progress during the month has been good and currently the cumulative rainfall is slightly in excess, leading to normal level of Kharif crop sowing. Given stable crude oil prices and normal monsoon, consumer level inflation has remained benign at 3.2%, same as the previous month.

RBI and Government actions to support the economy

The RBI MPC meeting in August had dovish stance with a policy rate cut of 35bps given the slowing economy and benign inflation expectations. RBI announced supportive measures such as reducing risk weight for consumer credit and increasing banks' exposure limits to on-lend through NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies). Towards end of the month, RBI announced reserve transfer to the government amounting to about INR 1.8 trillion. This is expected to help the government boost its capital expenditure without impacting the fiscal deficit. The finance minister announced various steps such as withdrawing surcharge on foreign investors' capital gains, expediting GST refunds and ensuring transmission of lower interest rates to the consumers. The government has announced merger of ten public sector banks into four large banks. The government also announced infusing capital into some of the PSU banks to enable credit growth in the economy.

Fixed income market sees profit booking: Fixed income markets gave up some gains despite the higher than expected 35bps rate cut from RBI MPC and support to government's fiscal position from RBI's reserve transfer. The G-sec yield inched up 20bps during the month on the back of government refraining from foreign bond issuance and expectations of lower Open Market Operations (OMOs) by RBI during remaining part of the year. For the month, foreign investors were net buyers of US\$1.1bn in fixed income markets.

Outlook: With improved monsoon and weak global growth, inflation outlook remains benign. RBI is expected to continue its accommodative stance to boost the economy. However, suboptimal revenue collection leading to higher fiscal deficit remains a worry for fixed income markets.

Equity market volatile but ended flat: Indian equity markets were volatile throughout the month given weakening economic indicators. Nifty and midcap indices ended the month about a percent down each. The oil and gas sector outperformed whereas metals and cement companies saw correction. Foreign funds remained net sellers in August with outflows of US\$2.3bn, while domestic funds bought equities worth US\$3bn.

Outlook: The global central banks are increasingly turning accommodative as various geo-political issues raise concerns regarding growth slowdown. The reduction in cost of capital is expected to underpin private consumption as well as earnings growth for corporates. Domestic market valuation currently is in line with the historical average. We hold a constructive view on equity markets with a medium to long term horizon.

Sanjay Kumar Chief Investment Officer

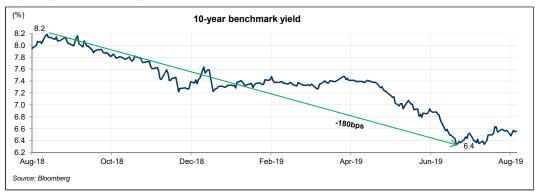
Glossary



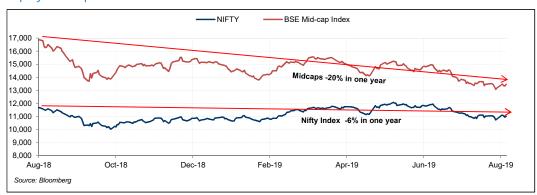
Indicators	Aug 2018	May 2019	Aug 2019	QoQ Change	YoY Change
Economic indicators					
Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation (%)	4.2	3.0	3.2	0.2	-1.0
Gross Domestic Product (GDP Growth) %	8.0	5.8	5.0	-0.8	-3.0
Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (%)	7.0	2.7	2.0	-0.7	-5.0
Brent crude oil (USD/barrel)	77	64	60	-6%	-22%
Domestic Markets					
Nifty Index	11,681	11,923	11,023	-8%	-6%
BSE Mid-cap Index	16,881	15,096	13,468	-11%	-20%
10-year G-Sec Yield (%)	8.0	7.0	6.6	-40 bps	-140 bps
30-year G-Sec Yield (%)	8.2	7.4	7.0	-40 bps	-120 bps
10-year AAA PSU Corporate Bond Yield (%)	8.7	8.0	7.4	-60 bps	-130 bps
Exchange rate (USD/INR) *	71.0	69.7	71.4	2%	1%
Global Markets					
Dow Jones (U.S.)	25,965	24,815	26,403	6%	2%
FTSE (U.K.)	7,432	7,162	7,207	1%	-3%
Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index (China)	2,725	2,899	2,886	0%	6%
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	22,865	20,601	20,704	1%	-9%

Source: Central Statistics Organisation (CSO), RBI, Bloomberg. *Negative growth number signals depreciation while positive growth number signals appreciation.

10-year government bond yield trend



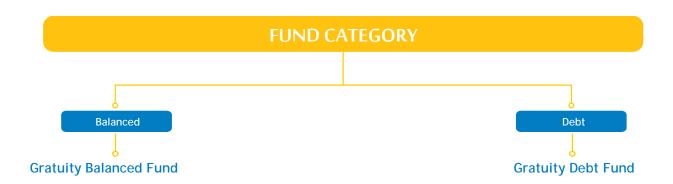
Equity Market performance



Glossary









As on August 31, 2019

SFIN No: ULGF00205/06/04GRABALANCE117

Gratuity Balanced

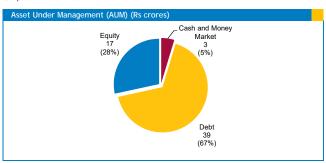
Investment Objective: To generate capital appreciation and current income, through a judicious mix of investments in equities and fixed income securities.

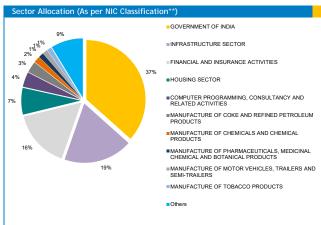
Investment Philosophy: The fund will target 30% investments in Equities and 70% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

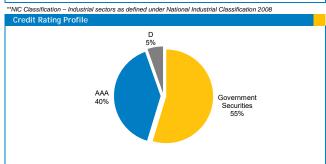
Portfolio Return As on August 31, 2019						
Determe	Absolute	e Return		CA	GR Return	
Returns	Last 1 Month	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 2 Years	Last 3 Years	Since Inception
Portfolio return	-0.8%	4.6%	5.4%	5.6%	6.7%	8.7%
Benchmark*	0.1%	6.4%	7.6%	6.5%	7.8%	8.6%

Note: Past returns are not indicative of future performance.

* Benchmark return has been computed by applying benchmark weightages on Nifty 50 for Equity and CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index for Debt







	< 1 Year 9% 1 to 3 years	
	9%	
> 7 Years 45%		
	3 to 7 Years	



Asset Classes	F&U	Actual
Government and other Debt Securities	25-95%	66.9%
Equities	5-35%	28.4%
Money Market and other liquid assets	0-40%	4.7%

Security	Rating	Net Assets
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES		
7.26% GOI 2029	Sovereign	9.8%
8.13% GOI 2045	Sovereign	5.8%
8.25% SDL 2026	Sovereign	5.5%
7.35% GOI 2024	Sovereign	5.4%
7.72% GOI 2055	Sovereign	3.8%
7.37% GOI 2023	Sovereign	2.8%
7.57% GOI 2033	Sovereign	2.7%
7.17% GOI 2028	Sovereign	0.4%
7.16% GOI 2023	Sovereign	0.4%
TOTAL		36.6%
CORPORATE BONDS		
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD	AAA	7.3%
SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LTD.	AAA	6.2%
L&T INFRA DEBT FUND LTD	AAA	6.2%
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	D	3.6%
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPN. LTD.	AAA	3.5%
SUNDARAM FINANCE LTD	AAA	1.8%
POWER FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	1.7%
BRITANNIA INDUSTRIES LTD.	AAA	0.0%
TOTAL		30.3%
TOP 10 EQUITY SECURITIES		
H D F C BANK I TD.		3.1%
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD.		2.7%
INFOSYS I TD.		2.3%
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPN. LTD.		1.9%
I C I C I BANK I TD.		1.5%
LT CLTD.		1.3%
LARSEN & TOUBRO LTD.		1.1%
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.		1.1%
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD.		0.9%
HINDUSTAN UNII EVER I TD.		0.9%
Others		11.7%
TOTAL		28.4%
		4.70:
CASH AND MONEY MARKET		4.7%





As on August 31, 2019

SFIN No: ULGF00105/06/04GRADEBTFND117

Gratuity Debt

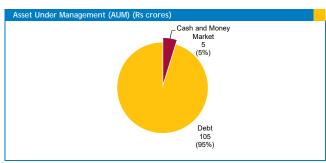
Investment Objective: To earn regular income by investing in high quality fixed income securities.

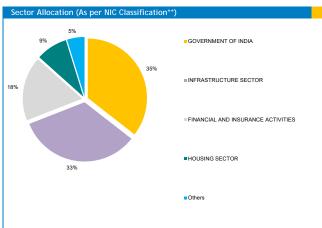
Investment Philosophy: The fund would target 100% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

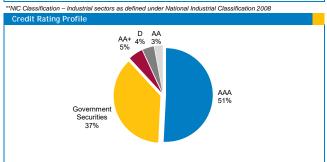
Portfolio Return	Portfolio Return As on August 31, 2019					
Dokumo	Absolut	e Return		CA	GR Return	
Returns	Last 1 Month	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 2 Years	Last 3 Years	Since Inception
Portfolio return	-2.9%	2.7%	5.4%	2.9%	4.5%	7.9%
Benchmark*	0.5%	8.3%	13.3%	6.9%	7.7%	8.6%

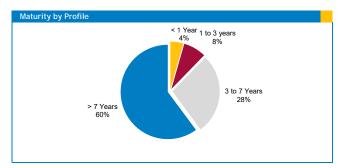
Note: Past returns are not indicative of future performance.

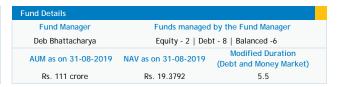
* Benchmark return has been computed by applying benchmark weightages on CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index





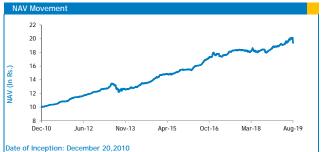






Asset Classes	F&U	Actual
Government and other Debt Securities	60-100%	95.2%
Money Market and other liquid assets	0-40%	4.8%

Security	Rating	Net Assets
TOP 10 GOVERNMENT SECURITIES		
7.26% GOI 2029	Sovereign	12.5%
7.57% GOI 2033	Sovereign	5.5%
7.72% GOI 2055	Sovereign	4.0%
8.83% GOI 2041	Sovereign	2.7%
7.69% GOI 2043	Sovereign	2.4%
7.59% GOI 2026	Sovereign	2.4%
7.06% GOI 2046	Sovereign	1.8%
7.68% GOI 2023	Sovereign	1.4%
7.32% GOI 2024	Sovereign	1.4%
7.17% GOI 2028	Sovereign	1.3%
Others		0.1%
TOTAL		35.5%
TOP 10 CORPORATE BONDS SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LTD. L&T INFRA DEBT FUND LTD	AAA AAA	7.6% 4.8%
INDIABULES HOUSING FINANCE LTD	AAA	4.8%
N H P C LTD.	AAA	4.8%
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPN. LTD.	AAA	4.7%
SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE CO. LTD.	AA+	4.7%
POWER FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	4.0%
NDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	3.9%
POWER GRID CORPN. OF INDIA LTD.	AAA	3.9%
STATE BANK OF INDIA	AAA	3.8%
Others		12.8%
TOTAL		59.7%
CASH AND MONEY MARKET		4.8%
PORTFOLIO TOTAL		100.0%





Quantitative Indicators

- Standard Deviation (SD) It shows how much the variation or dispersion of a fund's daily returns has from its average. Lesser SD indicates that the daily returns are moving closer to the average. A higher SD indicates that daily returns are widely spread over a large range of value.
- Beta It indicates how the fund is performing relative to its benchmark. If beta of a fund is higher than its benchmark, which is considered 1, it indicates risk-return trade-off is better and vice-versa.
- Sharpe Ratio It measures the risk-reward ratio as it indicates whether higher returns come with higher or lower risk. Greater the ratio, better is the risk-adjusted performance.
- Average Maturity It is the weighted average period of all the maturities of debt securities in the portfolio.
- Modified Duration (MD) It is the measurable change in the value of a security in response to a change in interest rates.
- Bond yield Bond yield is the amount of return an investor realizes on a bond. Several types of bond yields exist, including nominal yield (interest paid divided by the face value of the bond) and current yield (annual earnings of the bond divided by its current market price). Yield to maturity (YTM), a popular measure where in addition to coupon return it also additionally incorporates price decline/increase to face value of the bond over the maturity period.

Macroeconomic Indicators

- Macroeconomics Macroeconomics is the branch of economics that studies the behavior and performance of an
 economy as a whole. It focuses on the aggregate changes in the economy such as unemployment, growth rate,
 gross domestic product and inflation. Macroeconomics analyzes all aggregate indicators that influence the
 economy. Government and corporations use macroeconomic models to help in formulating of economic policies
 and strategies.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) GDP is one of the primary indicators used to gauge the health of a country's economy. It represents the total value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period. It can be stated in real terms or nominal terms (which includes inflation).
- Gross value added (GVA) GVA is a productivity metric that measures the contribution to an economy, producer, sector or region. Gross value added provides a value for the amount of goods and services that have been produced, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials that are directly attributable to that production.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) The index represents the production growth of various sectors in India. The
 index focuses on mining, electricity and manufacturing. The ongoing base year for calculation of index is 20042005.
- HSBC Purchasers Managers' Index (PMI) Three types of indices Manufacturing, Services and Composite Index are published on a monthly basis after surveys of private sector companies. An index reading above 50 indicates an overall increase in that variable, while below 50 shows an overall decrease.
- Inflation Inflation measures the change in the prices of a basket of goods and services in a year. From a calculation standpoint, it is the percentage change in the value of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) / Consumer Price Index (CPI) on a year-on-year basis. It occurs due to an imbalance between demand and supply, changes in production and distribution cost or increase in taxes on products. When economy experiences inflation, i.e. when the price level of goods and services rises, the value of currency reduces.



Macroeconomic Indicators

- Nominal interest rate Nominal interest rate is the interest rate that does not take inflation impact into account. It is the interest rate that is quoted on bonds and loans.
- Real interest rate Real interest rate adjusts for the inflation and gives the real rate of a bond or a loan.
- Monetary Policy Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the Central bank. It involves management of money supply and interest rates to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity. Depending on growth-inflation dynamics, the central bank can either pursue an easy or a tight monetary policy. An expansionary/easy/ accommodative monetary policy involves expansion of money supply, mainly by keeping interest rates low, to boost economic growth. A contractionary/tight monetary policy involves reduction in money supply to control inflation in the economy.
- Liquidity The Central bank of a country has to maintain an appropriate level of liquidity to help meet the credit demand of the country as well as maintain price stability. This is done by way of direct monetary policy tools such as policy rates and cash reserves to be maintained with it by banks. It is also done by indirect means such as Open market Operations (OMO) which involve sale and purchase of Government securities.
- Fiscal Deficit This takes place when India's expenditure rises than its revenue. To fill this gap, the Government raises debt by issuing Government/ sovereign bonds. Fiscal deficit is usually compared with GDP to understand the financial position of the country. Rising fiscal deficit to GDP ratio is not good for the country, which requires immediate attention to cut expenditure and/or increase the source of revenue.
- Current Account Deficit (CAD) Current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of
 imports of goods and services as well as net investment income or transfer from abroad is greater than the value
 of exports of goods and services for a country. This indicates that the country is a net debtor of foreign currency,
 which increases the pressure on the country's existing foreign currency reserves. Current account surplus is the
 opposite of this.
- Investment In private investment, the funds come from a private, for-profit business. A few examples of private investment are a private company's manufacturing plant, a commercial office building, or a shopping mall. In public investment, the money exchanged comes from a governmental entity such as a city, state, country, etc. It would involve roads, airports, dams and other public infrastructure.

Market Indices

- Nifty 50 Index It is a well diversified 50 stock index accounting for 22 sectors of the economy. It is used for a variety of purposes such as benchmarking fund portfolios, index based derivatives and index funds.
- CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index It seeks to track the performance of a debt portfolio that includes government securities and AAA/AA rated corporate bonds.

Fixed Income Indicators

- Repo Rate The rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks is called repo rate. It is an instrument of monetary policy. Whenever shortage of funds banks has, they can borrow from the RBI.
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) CRR is the amount of funds which the banks need to keep with the RBI. If the RBI
 decides to increase the CRR, the available amount with the banks comes down. The RBI uses the CRR to drain out
 excessive money from the system.



Fixed Income Indicators

- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) It is a rate at which the RBI provides overnight lending to commercial banks
 over and above the repo window (repo rate). The interest rate charged is higher than the repo rate and hence it is
 used when there is considerable shortfall in liquidity.
- Statutory Liquidity ratio (SLR) In India, commercial banks are required to maintain a certain percentage of their total deposits (net demand and time liabilities) in notified Government securities to ensure safety and liquidity of deposits. This percentage is known as the SLR rate. If the RBI or Central Bank reduces the SLR rate, it means that higher liquidity will be available to banks for their lending activity and vice-versa.

Others

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) The GST is one of the biggest indirect tax reforms, with an aim to make India one unified common market. It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer. Credits of input taxes paid at each stage will be available in the subsequent stage of value addition, which makes GST essentially a tax only on value addition at each stage. The final consumer will thus bear only the GST charged by the last dealer in the supply chain, with set-off benefits at all the previous stages.
- Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) FIIs are those institutional investors who invest in the assets belonging to a different country other than that where these organizations are based. These are the big companies such as investment banks, mutual funds etc, which invest considerable amount of money in Indian equity and fixed income markets, and consequently have a strong bearing on the respective market movement and currency.
- Domestic institutional investors (DIIs)- DIIs are those institutional investors who undertake investment in securities and other financial assets of the country they are based in. Institutional investment is defined to be the investment done by institutions or organizations such as banks, insurance companies, and mutual fund houses in the financial or real assets of a country.
- Emerging market (EM) economy- An emerging market economy describes a nation's economy that is progressing toward becoming more advanced, usually by means of rapid growth and industrialization. These countries experience an expanding role both in the world economy and on the political frontier.
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)- The OPEC was formed in 1960 to unify and
 coordinate members' petroleum policies. This was aimed at ensuring the stability of oil markets in order to secure
 an efficient, economic, and regular supply of petroleum to customers as well as a steady income to producers
 with a fair return. Members of OPEC include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United
 Arab Emirates (or UAE), Oman, and Yemen. The OPEC countries produce 40% of the world's crude oil.
- Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)- The FOMC is the monetary policymaking body of the Federal Reserve System. The FOMC is composed of 12 members - seven members of the Board of Governors and five of the 12 Reserve Bank presidents.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)- The IMF, formed in 1945, is an international organization of 189 countries, headquartered in Washington, D.C. The key objectives include fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating international trade, promoting high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reducing poverty around the world.



About Us



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PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) is one of the fastest growing life insurance companies in the country, having as its shareholders, MetLife International Holdings LLC. (MIHL), Punjab National Bank Limited (PNB), Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (JKB), M. Pallonji and Company Private Limited and other private investors, with MIHL and PNB being the majority shareholders. PNB MetLife has been present in India since 2001.

PNB MetLife brings together the financial strength of a leading global life insurance provider, MetLife, Inc., and the credibility and reliability of PNB, one of India's oldest and leading nationalised banks. The vast distribution reach of PNB together with the global insurance expertise and product range of MetLife makes PNB MetLife a strong and trusted insurance provider.

PNB MetLife is present in over 107 locations across the country and serves customers in more than 8,000 locations through its bank partnerships with PNB, JKB and Karnataka Bank Limited.

PNB MetLife provides a wide range of protection and retirement products through its Agency sales of over 6,000 financial advisors and multiple bank partners, and provides access to Employee Benefit plans for over 1,200 corporate clients in India. The company continues to be consistently profitable and has declared profits for last five Financial Years.

For more information, visit www.pnbmetlife.com

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Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) is rounded to nearest 0.1%

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